

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel rejected Claims 1-9 and 26.

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An image reading apparatus comprising:

first reading means and second reading means disposed along a transportation path for transporting an original and arranged to read images on the original from two sides of the original,

wherein said first reading means is fixedly supported while said second reading means is rotatably supported;

first abutting means and second abutting means provided in said first reading means and said second reading means, respectively, and arranged to come into contact with each other outside an original transportation region;

reading urging means for urging said second reading means in a direction in which said second abutting means abuts against said first abutting means;

a first white reference disposed in a position opposite to said first reading means so that the original is urged toward an image reading surface of said first reading means, said first white reference having white color as a color reference of said first reading means; and

a second white reference disposed in a position opposite to said second reading means so that the original is urged toward an image reading surface of said second reading means, said second white reference having white color as a color reference of said second reading means.

11. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein in an abutting state of said first abutting means and said second abutting means, the image reading surface of said first reading means and the image reading surface of said second reading means are substantially coplanar with each other.

12. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein a force for urging said second white reference toward said second reading means is smaller than a force exerted by said reading urging means to urge said second reading means.

13. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein one of the image reading surface of said first reading means and the image reading surface of said second reading means functions as one of said first and second abutting means.

26. (Cancelled)